

ABSTRACT

Soft handover of a mobile unit is facilitated on a wireless network from base station to base station. The network can employ multi-channel receivers to receive signals from mobile units within range, including mobile units assigned to neighboring base stations. Information associated with received signals, such as an indication of their signal strength, can be relayed to a central location for assessing whether the mobile unit should be assigned to another base station, and implement reassignment of one or more mobile units based on such assessment. Soft handover reduces dropped calls when the connection from mobile to base station is unexpectedly lost. The second BTS can add a carrier to communicate with the mobile unit and provides the mobile unit with the necessary parameters, such as frequency and time slot data, to complete the handover or the connection can be established through a variety of contingency plans.